

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF VICTORIA POST, 1864-1897

by

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most of the glass buttons from the Clerk's house area were complex or decorative, whereas three out of the four glass buttons from the Men's house area were simple, plain, white, sew-through buttons.

The relative proportions of shell and metal buttons found in each area were fairly similar and no significance was attached to the slight difference in numbers. A larger variety of shell buttons, however, including more decorative specimens came from the Clerk's house area than the Men's house features. Regarding the metal buttons, proportionately fewer of the utilitarian sew through varieties were found in the Clerk's house area than the Men's house area.

In conclusion, real differences were observed in the nature and proportion of different buttons in the two residential areas. As the differences were observable in relation to decorative vs. utilitarian attributes, some importance was attached to them. Generally, more decorative and complex buttons were found in the Clerk's house area, whereas the plainer, more utilitarian varieties came from the Men's house area. Accordingly it was interpreted that there were cultural differences in the clothing, as reflected by button fasteners, of the residents of the two areas. The differences were furthermore attributed to demographic and work related factors. The populace of the Clerk's house may have included more females or children than the Men's house which, as the name implies, may only have been occupied by men. The duties of the Clerk were generally more administrative in nature and probably entailed greater social responsibilities whereas occupants of the Men's house fulfilled more labour-related chores. Correspondingly, then, simpler buttons, assuming a correlation to simpler clothing, occurred proportionately more frequently in the Men's house assemblage than that of the Clerk's house. Finally, the differences in the button sample could also be due to differences in income levels. The residents of the Clerk's house could have been slightly more affluent and were therefore able to purchase and wear more expensive clothing than the inhabitants of the Men's house.

Beads:

Glass beads were found in all archaeological deposits at Victoria

(Fig. 49, Table 7). As few beads were recovered from the Men's house area in 1977, comparisons and reference to this area was made by using data recovered earlier (Losey 1977b, c). For both residential areas, the most frequently found beads were of small, seed bead size (under 2.0 mm diameter). The frequency occurrence of beads decreased as size increased. Beads of two colours (class IVa, Kidd and Kidd 1970) red with white core, or red with green core were proportionately more numerous in the Clerk's house area than the Men's house area. On the other hand, class IIa and Wlc beads were more common to the Men's house area than the Clerk's house area. A dentalium bead was found in each residential area. The beads found were not considered particularly diagnostic nor did they contribute towards drawing meaningful material culture distinctions between residential areas.

Buckles and Other Clothing Fasteners:

Buckles and other metal clothing fasteners (Fig. 50, Table 7) were not as numerous or varied as buttons. Most buckles and fastener parts found were made of ferrous material. Buckles were found with one, two or three fastening pins. Fastening pins were missing on some artifacts. Several buckles had been manufactured from brass or brass and steel (iron?). Those from dateable contexts lacked fastening pins and were classified as suspender buckles or adjusters. This is not to say, however, that several of the ferrous buckles could not also have been used on suspenders. All of the brass or brass and ferrous metal suspender adjusters came from the Clerk's house area. Ferrous buckles were slightly more numerous for the Men's house area than the Clerk's house, including previously recovered data. A brass zipper fragment, a snap fastener and brass wire safety pin were all recovered from the Clerk's house. No similar artifacts were found in the Men's house area. The general distinctions drawn between the buckles and clothing fastener artifacts of the two residential areas represented differences of quality. The artifacts from the Clerk's house had a more diverse range of fastening modes and were frequently of brass construction.

Bale Seals

Previous excavations at Victoria did not recover bale seals. These

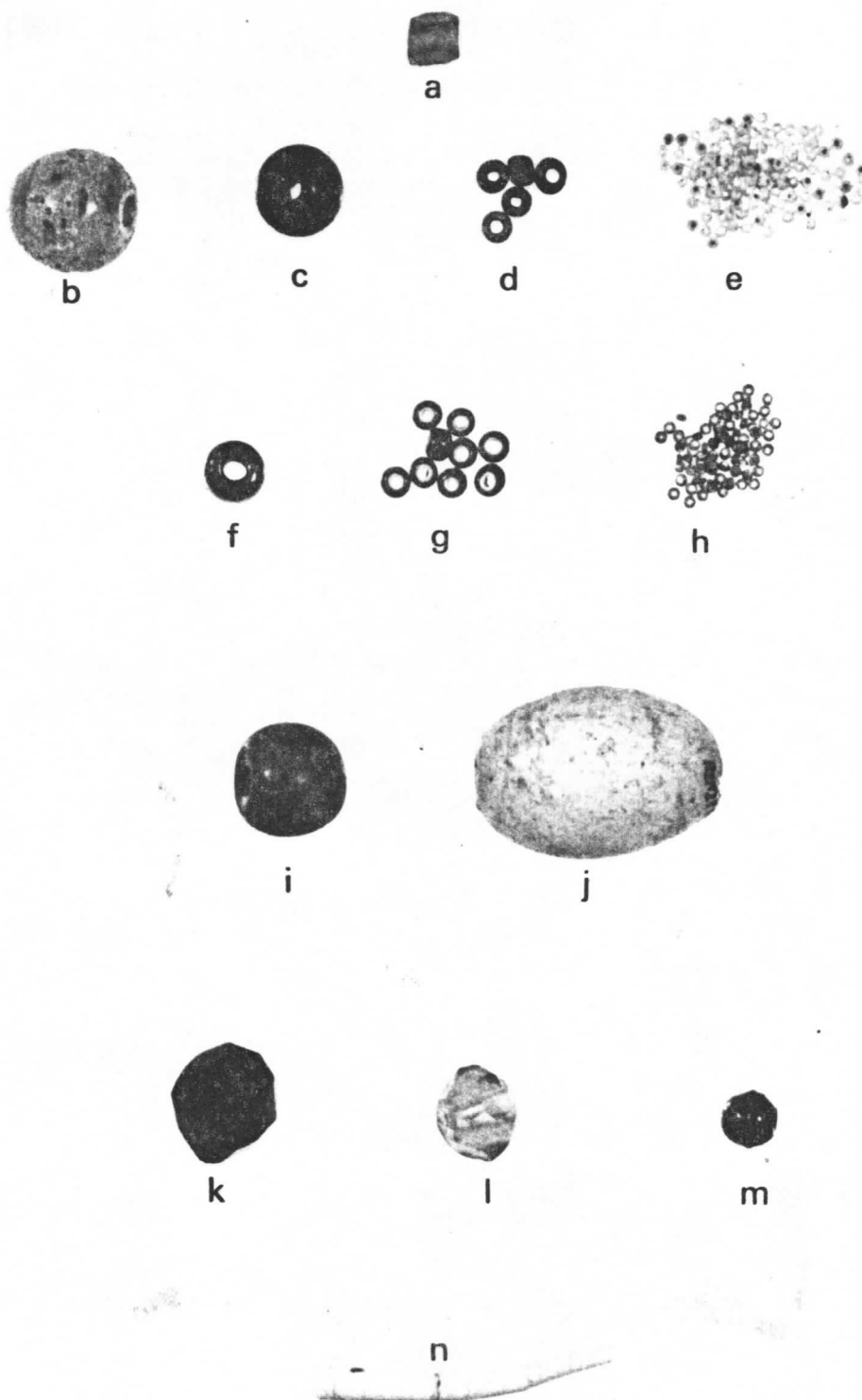


Figure 49. Beads. a-Ic, red 24G1:23; b-IIa, yellow, 23A5:27; c-IIa, blue, 10.0 mm dia., 19A1:199; e-IIa, green, 19A5:55+; e-IIa, pink, 19A9:73+; f-IVa, red/green, 19A2:48; g-IVa, red/white, 19A5:46+; h-IVa, red/white, 19A9:187+; i-W1b, blue, 24A1:13; j-W1c, white, 23A1:307; k-W11c, dark blue, 24N3:112; l-W11c, blue, 17F13:167; m-W11c, green, 24A1:17; n-dentalium shell, 25K1:17.

TABLE 7. Bead, buckle, bale seal, and sewing artifact distribution.

Artifact description	Artifact Deposits											Men's House Area		
	Clerk's House Area													
	PIT 24N3 UNDER C.H. FLOOR (c.1864-1875)	CLERK'S HOUSE FLOOR AREA (c.1864-1875)	KITCHEN EXTENSION C FIREPLACE (c.1870-1883?)	LINEAR DEPRESSION BASAL DEPOSIT (c.1864-1870)	PRIVY 17B (c.1864-1870)	PRIVY 18A (c.1890-1900?)	TRASH PIT 19A (c.1879-1883)	TRASH PIT 19C (c.1879-1883)	TOTAL	TRASH PIT 21A (c.1879-1883)	PRIVY 23A (c.1872-1880)	PREVIOUS FINDINGS	TOTAL	SITE TOTAL
Beads (cf. Kidd and Kidd 1970)														
Ic (Fig. 49, a)		1							1			1	1	2
Ila, 7-10 mm dia. (Fig. 49, b)	3	1					1		5			5	5	10
Ila, 6 mm dia. (Fig. 49, c)							1	1	2			9	9	11
Ila, 3-3.5 mm dia. (Fig. 49, d)		3					14	26	43			72	72	115
Ila, up to 2.0 mm dia. (Fig. 49, e)	13	176					20	210			1	207	208	418
Iva, 6-6.5 mm dia. (Fig. 49, f)			1				1		2				3	5
Iva, 3-4 mm dia. (Fig. 49, g)				1	2		14	3	20				10	30
Iva, 1-2 mm dia. (Fig. 49, h)	1	11		1			69	36	118				63	181
Wlb, 9-11 mm dia. (Fig. 49, i)		1				1			2		2	14	17	18
Wlc, 17-18 mm dia. (Fig. 49, j)	1	2		2			2		7					7
Wllc, 10-13 mm dia. (Fig. 49, k)	1			2					3	1	1		2	5
Wllc, 6 mm dia. (Fig. 49, l)		1							1					1
Dentalium (Fig. 49, m)		1							1			1	1	2
Miscellaneous unidentified		23							23					23
IF												3	3	3
Wlb, 4-6 mm dia.												2	2	2
Wlllb, to 2 mm dia.												2	2	2
Buckles and other features														
Zipper part, brass (Fig. 50, a)	1								1					1
Snap fastener (Fig. 50, b)		1							1					1
Suspender adjusters (Fig. 50, c, d, e)	1	1			1				3					3
Brass wire safety pin (Fig. 50, f)		1							1					1
Ferrous hook and eye fastener (Fig. 50, g)							2		2					2
Ferrous clothing buckles (Fig. 50, h-1)		1						2	3	1	1	2	4	7